Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AFR/CWR/SDU:JKELLY:CML APPROVED BY AFR/CWR:ICOKER AFR/CWR:FGILBERT (DRAFT) RDO/NIAMEY:ABARON (DRAFT) AF/W:JBISHOP (SUBS)

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P 252337Z JUL 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MALI AND NIGER FOOD NEEDS

REFS: (A) NIAMEY 2922 (B) STATE 172801 (C) NIAMEY 2166

- 1. REF (A) CLARIFICATION VERY USEFUL HERE. GIVEN GON'S IN-FLUENCE WITH OCDN, LOCAL TRANSITAIRES AND TRUCKING COMPAN-IES, WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO HAVE SORGHUM DIVERTED TO NIGER MIGHT AFFECT ATTITUDE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVACUATION OF STOCKS FROM PARAKOU TO GAO.
- 2. WITH RESPECT TO ADDITIONAL GON ASSISTANCE (PARA 6 REF A), IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS POINT IF GON COULD ANALYZE SEVER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITY OF CURRENT COMMODITY BOTTLENECK AT PARAKOU IN TERMS OF

SIMILAR SITUATIONS GON HAS HAD TO DEAL WITH IN PAST AND INFORMALLY ADVISE WHETHER, IN ITS JUDGMENT, A REASONABLE E-VACUATION RATE OF SORGHUM FROM PARAKOU TO GAO CAN BE EXPECTED OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. WE BELIEVE GON VIEWS MOST RELE-VANT GIVEN ITS FAMILIARITY WITH OVERALL NIGER COMMODITY SITUATION AT PARAKOU RAIL HEAD AS WELL AS TRUCKING AVAILABILITIES IN NIAMEY AND ITS STRONG INTEREST IN HAVING SUFFICIENT STOCKS IN MALI'S SIXTH REGION. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN VIEWS OF ALI SAIBOU WHO HAS BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE IN OVERCOMING PARAKOU EVACUATION PROBLEMS IN PAST (MOST RECENTLY IN MID-JUNE).

3. FOR COTONOU: REF (A) SUGGESTS THAT PARAKOU BOTTLENECK IS CAUSED IN PART BY POOR PERFORMANCE OF SOCOPAO AND SOCOTRA. REQUEST EMBASSY/AID ASCERTAIN WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY TRANSITAIRE REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE NUMBER OF TRUCKS MOVING STOCKS FROM PARAKOU. RECOGNIZE CONSTRAINTS CAUSED BY CONDITION OF ROADS BUT ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT TRUCK HAULING REQUIREMENTS NORMALLY RUCED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR RESULTING IN IDLE TRUCK DRIVERS'

DECONTROL: 7/26/76. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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